

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, February 12, 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, David Rollo, Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Gary Charbonneau, Dave Rollo, George Huntington

Regrets: David Parkhurst, Claire Cumberland, Cynthia Schultz, Ashley Cranor

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Madeleine (Madi) Hirschland, 3 members of the public

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Announcements:

BCOS currently has 3 council openings.

Madi Hirschland and Dave Rollo met with Congressman Todd Young to discuss climate change. Rep. Young expressed skepticism but pledged to keep an open mind.

Molly announced an upcoming facility managers meeting on February 26 and a solar forum on March 3.

Campus Conservation Nationals will kick off on campus soon.

Approval of Minutes:

The January 2013 meetings were approved unanimously.

Presentation by Madi Hirschland on the Solar Challenge

Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light (local affiliate Earth Care) received a grant to fund solar installations on six faith organizations ranging from Jewish to Protestant to evangelical Christian.

The bids received were much lower than the budget indicated, so the installations will be bigger than originally expected.

The group is also evaluating legal arrangements that would allow congregations to take advantage of the tax credits associated with renewable energy.

Each congregation has also committed to reducing their energy use by 25-40%, and has committed to getting members of their congregations to cut their household energy use by 1/7th (14%), and are taking their message on the road. Another 10 congregations are exploring participating as well, and may also install solar panels if legal options that allow

them to take advantage of tax credits will work. Several congregations have already cut their energy use by up to 35% by altering behavior and by turning down the heat when the buildings are not occupied.

Local solar installers have given a quote of \$3.25/watt for residential installations.

Report from the Chair

Maggie gave an update on efforts to compile all Earth Week events in the community. Jeff has 6-7 events accumulated, and will share this soon.

The Food Policy Council will be providing us a revised version of the Food Policy Charter soon.

The City and County Parks & Recreation Departments are hosting a local "Green Spots" tour to show off local green features, and have asked BCOS to co-sponsor (no financial commitment). The commission voted unanimously to support this event.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

The City has received a grant from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network to create a green rental housing tool to serve partners in 14 cities across the country. The project will identify existing data, determine how to deal with differences in data formats, etc.

Committee reports

STAR committee report: Maggie has been working with an intern to assemble data related to food, including the number of residents receiving food assistance, community garden data, membership in Community Supported Agriculture partnerships, etc. She will share an update on this at the next meeting.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Caleb Steiner has stepped down from BCOS and from the ECPC. Dave Rollo agreed to represent BCOS on the committee.

Green Business Certification: The committee will have a more complete report next month.

Global Reporting Initiative research project: Ball State students came to Bloomington on Friday, and learned about ways the City has saved energy and water. The group also walked the B-Line and toured the courthouse.

Imagine Bloomington committee: the committee hasn't convened yet, but will have a report at the next meeting. Dave R. shared info on "The End of Growth," and will make this available to others when he's finished with it.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:45.